Numb. 119

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

In Tenui labor. —— Virg.

From *Tuesday January* 10. to *Thursday January* 12. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, January 12.

I Have lately applied my self with much Satisfaction to the curious Discoveries that have been made by the Help of Microscopes, as they are related by Authors of our own and other Nations. There is a great deal of Pleasure in prying into this World of Wonders, which Nature has laid out of Sight, and seems industrious to conceal from us. Philosophy had ranged over all the visible Creation, and began to want Objects for her Enquiries, when the present Age, by the Invention of Glasses, opened a new and inexhaustible Magazine of Rarities, more wonderful and amazing than any of those which astonished our Forefathers. I was Yesterday amusing my self with Speculations of this Kind, and reflecting upon Myriads of Animals that swim in those little Seas of Juices that are contained in the several Vessels of an human Body. While my Mind was thus filled with secret Wonder and Delight, I could not but look upon my self as in an Act of Devotion, and am very well pleased with the Thought of the great Heathen Anatomist, who calls his Description of the Parts of an human Body, *An Hymn to the Supreme Being.* The Reading of the Day produced in my Imagination an agreeable Morning's Dream, if I may call it such; for I am still in Doubt, whether it passed in my sleeping or waking Thoughts. However it was, I fancied that my Good Genius stood at my Bed's-Head, and entertained me with the following Discourse; for upon my Rising, it dwelt so strongly upon me, that I writ down the Substance of it, if not the very Words.

If (said he) you can be so transported with those Productions of Nature which are discovered to you by those artificial Eyes that are the Works of human Invention, how great will your Surprise be, when you shall have it in your Power to model your own Eye as you please, and adapt it to the Bulk of Objects, which, with all these Helps, are by infinite Degrees too minute for your Perception. We who are embodyed Spirits can sharpen our Sight to what Degree we think fit, and make the least Work of the Creation distinct and visible. This gives us such Idea's as cannot possibly enter into your present Conceptions. There is not the least Particle of Matter which may not furnish one of us sufficient Employment for a whole Eternity. We can still divide it, and still open it, and still discover new Wonders of Providence, as we look into the different Texture of its Parts, and meet with Beds of Vegetables, Mineral and Metallick Mixtures, and several Kinds of Animals that lie hid, and as it were lost in such an endless Fund of Matter. I find you are surprised at this Discourse; but as your Reason tells you there are infinite Parts in the smallest Portion of Matter, it will likewise convince you, That there is as great a Variety of Secrets, and as much Room for Discoveries, in a Particle no bigger than the Point of a Pin, as in the Globe of the whole Earth. Your Microscopes bring to Sight Shoals of living Creatures in a Spoonful of Vinegar; but we who can distinguish them in their different Magnitudes, see among them several huge *Leviathans*, that terrify the little Fry of Animals about them, and take their Pastime as in an Ocean, or the great Deep. I could not but smile at this Part of his Relation, and told him, I doubted not but he could give me the History of several invisible Giants, accompanied with their respective Dwarfs, in case that any of these little Beings are of an human Shape. You may assure your self (said he) that we see in these little Animals different Natures, Instincts and Modes of Life, which correspond to what you observe in Creatures of bigger Dimensions. We descry Millions of Species subsisted on a green Leaf, which your Glasses represent only in Crowds and Swarms. What appear to your Eyes but as Hair or Down rising on the Surface of it, we find to be Woods and Forrests, inhabited by Beasts of Prey, that are as dreadful in these their little Haunts, as Lions and Tygers in the Deserts of *Libya*. I was much delighted with his Discourse, and could not forbear telling him, That I should be wonderfully pleased to see a natural History of Imperceptibles, containing a true Account of such Vegetables and Animals as grow and live out of Sight. Such Disquisitions (answered he) are very suitable to reasonable Creatures; and you may be sure, there are many curious Spirits amongst us who employ themselves in such Amusements. For as our Hands, and all our Senses, may be formed to what Degree of Strength and Delicacy we please, in the same Manner as our Sight, we can make what Experiments we are inclined to, how small soever the Matter be in which we make them. I have been present at the Dissection of a Mite, and have seen the Skeleton of a Flea. I have been shown a Forrest of numberless Trees, which has been picked out of an Acorn. Your Microscope can show you in it a compleat Oak in Miniature; and could you shut all your Organs as we do, you might pluck an Acorn from this little Oak, which contains another Tree; and so proceed from Tree to Tree, as long as you would think fit to continue your Disquisitions. It is almost impossible (added he) to talk of Things so remote from common Life, and the ordinary Notions which Mankind receive from blunt and gross Organs of Sense, without appearing extravagant and ridiculous. You have often seen a Dog opened, to observe the Circulation of the Blood, or make any other useful Enquiry; and yet would be tempted to laugh if I should tell you, that a Circle of much greater Philosophers than any of the Royal Society, were present at the cutting up of one of those little Animals which we

find

find in the Blue of a Plumb: That it was ty'd down alive before them; and that they obſerved the Palpitations of the Heart, the Courſe of the Blood, the Working of the Muſcles, and the Convulſions in the ſeveral Limbs, with great Accuracy and Improvement. I muſt confeſs (ſaid I) for my own Part, I go along with you in all your Diſcoveries with great Pleaſure; but it is certain, they are too fine for the Groſs of Mankind, who are more ſtruck with the Deſcription of every Thing that is great and bulky. Accordingly we find the beſt Judge of human Nature ſetting forth his Wiſdom, not in the Formation of theſe minute Animals (tho' indeed no leſs wonderful than the other) but in that of the *Leviathan* and *Behemoth*, the *Horſe* and the *Crocodile*. Your Obſervation (ſaid he) is very juſt; and I muſt acknowledge for my own Part, that although it is with much Delight that I ſee the Traces of Providence in theſe Inſtances, I ſtill take greater Pleaſure in conſidering the Works of the Creation in their Immenſity, than in their Minuteneſs. For this Reaſon, I rejoice when I ſtrengthen my Sight ſo as to make it pierce into the moſt remote Spaces, and take a View of thoſe Heavenly Bodies which lie out of the Reach of human Eyes, tho' aſſiſted by Teleſcopes. What you look upon as one confuſed White in the Milky-Way, appears to me a long Tract of Heavens, diſtinguiſhed by Stars that are ranged in proper Figures and Conſtellations. While you are admiring the Sky in a Starry Night, I am entertained with a Variety of Worlds and Suns placed one above another, and riſing up to ſuch an immenſe Diſtance, that no created Eye can ſee an End of them.

The latter Part of his Diſcourſe flung me into ſuch an Aſtoniſhment, that he had been ſilent for ſome Time before I took Notice of it. When on a ſudden I ſtarted up and drew my Curtains, to look if any one was near me, but ſaw no Body, and cannot tell to this Moment whether it was my good Genius or a Dream that left me.

Advertiſements.

SIR William Read, Her Majeſty's Oculiſt in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London, by his long Practice, and great Experience, has lately found out a Medicine that clarifies the Eyes from Suffuſions, and ſtrengthens the Optick Nerves, which infallibly prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preſerves the Sight in Old or Young. He likewiſe couches Cataracts without Pain, or much Confinement, if they apply themſelves to him before damaged by Pretenders; as will be atteſted by many Perſons of Quality and others that have found the good Effect thereof. He alſo cures Hair-Lips, or Wry Necks, tho' never ſo deformed; or contracted Limbs; and has lately taken off ſeveral Wens of a great Bigneſs; particularly one from a Gentlewoman that weigh'd 26 Pounds, without any Effuſion of Blood, after the Application of his Styptick Water, which all People may be furniſh'd with at his Houſe, with the Medicines for the Eyes above-mention'd, and by my Lady Read in his Abſence.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** The 2d Edition of the Poetical Works of the Honourable Sir Charles Sedley Bar. and his Speeches in Parliament, with large Additions never before made publick: Publiſhed from the Original MS. by Capt. Ayloffe. To which is prefix'd, the Earl of Rocheſter's Mountebank Speech on Tower-Hill; together with a new Miſcellany of Poems, by ſeveral eminent Hands. As alſo a compleat Collection of all the remarkable Speeches in both Houſes of Parliament, from the Year 1641 to the happy Union of Great Britain. By ſeveral Lords and Commoners, viz. The Duke of Albemarle, Earl of Clarendon, Earl of Briſtol, Lord Wharton, Earl of Pembroke, Lord Hollis, Lord Brook, Earl of Eſſex, Earl of Argyle, Lord Melvil, Lord Haverſham, Lord Belhaven, &c. Algernoon Sidney Eſquire, Mr. Waller, Sir Francis Seymor, Mr. Pym, Richard Cromwell, Mr. Strode, Sir William Perkins, Sir William Scroggs, Sir J---- P----. To which is added, The State of a Secretary's Place, and the Dangers incident to it. Written by Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury. Printed for S. Briſcoe; and ſold by J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard near the Royal-Exchange, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

New Muſick juſt publiſh'd,

FIFTY two Minuets and Rigadoons, for Violins, Hautboys, and Balloons; Two Airs with them, and a Paſpie, One Hornpipe, Two Jiggs, and a Bore. With a Baſs to each of them. All fit for Balls and Dancing Schools. Compoſed by Mr. W. Hills. Printed for J. Walſh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majeſty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hautboy in Catherine-ſtreet near Somerſet-Houſe in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil near the Royal-Exchange.

To be ſold,

A Very good Coach, lined with a Cathaw, fit for Town or Country. To be ſeen at Mr. Carne's at the Three Corniſh Daws over-againſt my Lord Sunderland's in Piccadilly.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** Prieſtcraft in Perfection; or a Detection of the Fraud of inſerting and continuing this Clauſe (The Church hath Power to decree Rites and Ceremonies, and Authority in Controverſies of Faith) in the 20th Article of the Articles of the Church of England. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Where may be had, The Proceedings of the Lords and Commons in the Year 1628. againſt Roger Manwaring, Doctor in Divinity, (the Sacheverell of thoſe Days) for Two ſeditious high-flying Sermons, entitled, Religion and Allegiance.

This Day is publiſh'd,

*** The Caſe of John Atherton, Biſhop of Waterford in Ireland; who was convicted of the Sin of Uncleanneſs with a Cow, and other Creatures; for which he was hang'd at Dublin, December 5. 1640. With a full Account of his Behaviour after his Condemnation, and the Letters he ſent to his Wife and Two Daughters the Night before his Execution. To which is added, The Sermon preach'd at his Funeral the Night after his Execution, in St. John's Church, Dublin, with ſome farther Account of his Life. The whole written by Nicholas Barnard, Dean of Ardagh, at the Command of Atchbiſhop Uſher, and to him dedicated. Printed for E. Curll at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleetſtreet, and ſold by J. Harding at the Poſt-Office in St Martin's-Lane. Pr. 1 s. And the Lord Audley's Tryal for Sodomy, &c. Pr. 6 d.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** Ἀνακρεοντος Θεου Μελη. Anacreontis Teii Carmina. Plurimis quibus hactenus ſcatebant Mendis purgavit, turbata Metra reſtituit, Notaſque cum novâ Interpretatione adjecit Wilhelmus Baxter. Subjiciuntur etiam duo vetuſtiſſimæ Poetriæ Sapphus elegantiſſima Odaria, cum novo Commentario; item Theocriti Anacreonticum in mortuum Adonin. Editio altera, aliquanto emaculatior & elucubratior: Qua commendatur etiam Barnesii Cantabrigienſis Profeſſoris Lepidum & Bellum Ingenium, & Acumen Criticum. Cædimur, inque vicem præbemus Crura Sagittis. Vivitur hoc Pacto.--- Londinii Auguſtæ Imprimebatur Impenſis Matthæi Hawkins, proſtatque venalis ad Angelum in Area Paulina.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all Sorts of Binding, viz. Right Shagreen, red and blue Turky, Ruſſia-Leather, &c. Mr. Sturt's Cuts, curiouſly engraven, with all other Sorts of Cuts either for Bibles or Common-Books of Prayers; the Sacrament and Devotion, bound with the Common-Prayer or ſingle; Tate and Brady's new Pſalms, with the new Supplement; Burket on the New Teſtament, in Folio, the fourth and laſt Edition; the Lord Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, &c. Wincheſter Manual; a new Britiſh Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechiſm, for the Uſe of Charity-Schools, by Wholeſale or Retale, at reaſonable Rates. Caſes for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewiſe taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers-Court near the Hall within Ludgate.

THIS Chryſtal Coſmetick, approv'd of by the Worthy Dr. Paul Chamberline, viz. by waſhing Morning or Evening, cures all red Faces, proceeding from what Cauſe ſoever: It takes off all Morphews, Pimples, and Freckles; it's of a ſoft Nature, cleanſing and adorning the Face and Hands of both Sexes in a very beautiful Manner; and may be us'd with as much Safety as Milk, having in it no Mercury (ſo frequently made Uſe of) or any other Thing that may be prejudicial to the Body, being the beſt of this Nature now extant. The Price of the largeſt Bottle 6 s. the leſſer 3 s. To be ſold at Mr. Allcroft's at the Blue-Coat Boy, a Toyſhop, againſt the Royal-Exchange, Cornhil; at Mr. Jackſon's, a Toyſhop, the Corner of Wood-ſtreet, in Cheapſide; at Mrs. Stephens's, the Comb under St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet; at Mr. Brecknock's, Milliner over againſt St. James's ſtreet, Piccadilly. Note, to prevent Counterfeits, each ſingle Bottle with Directions, is tied and ſealed with this Coat of Arms, being a Frett, with a Lion Rampant in a Canton.

*** The famous Medicine for curing the Cholick, that has for ſome Time been ſold by Mr. Rogers, Bookſeller in Fleetſtreet, at 2 s. and 6 d. the Paper, has lately cur'd a Gentlewoman near Tunbridge of above 70 Years old, who had been afflicted with that Diſtemper at Times for above 40 Years, and for above half a Year laſt paſt had it without any Intermiſſion, as appears by a Letter from a Friend of the Gentlewoman's ſent to Mr. Rogers, dated July 9. 1709. which is to be ſeen at his Shop by any one that deſires it.

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** A Treatiſe, entitled, A perfect Cure for the King's Evil (whether hereditary or accidental) by effectual Alcahous Medicines, faithfully approved by the Experience of 18 Years Practice, and the Teſtimony of above 400 Patients reſtored beyond Relapſe. By Tho. Fern, Chirurgeon. Giving an exact Account alſo, how he himſelf was perfectly cured by the ſame Medicines, after having languiſhed 11 Years under the ſame Diſtemper, and being given over by ſeveral eminent Phyſicians and Surgeons in London. Printed for D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan at the Golden Ball in Cornhill, A. Bettſworth at the Red Lion on London-Bridge, C. King in Weſtminſter-Hall, W. Mears near Lincolns-Inn-Gate in Chancery-Lane, and at the Author's Houſe in Grange-Court near Lincolns-Inn. Price 1 s. 6 d. bound, 1 s. ſtitch'd.